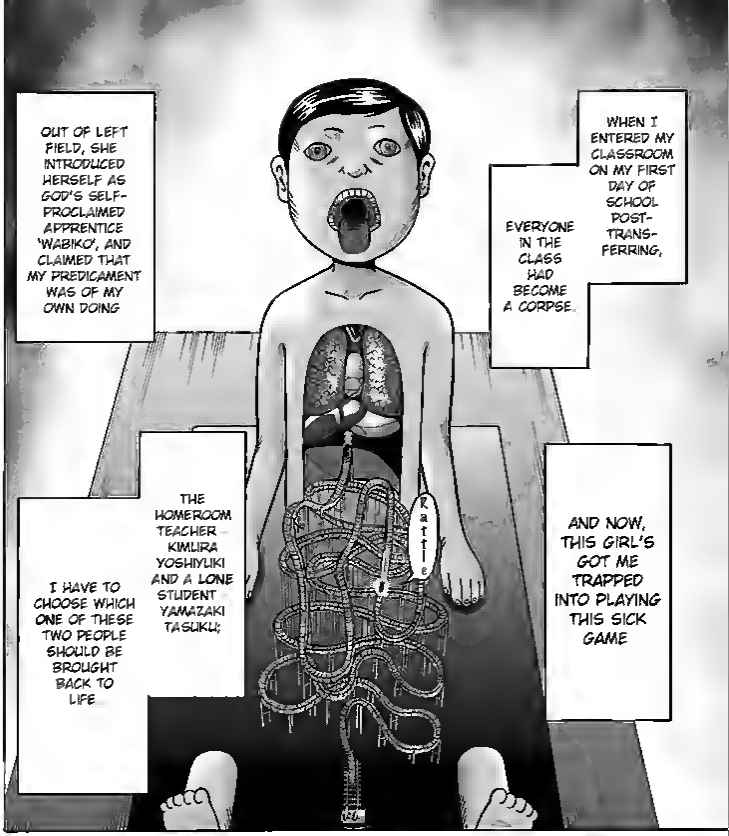
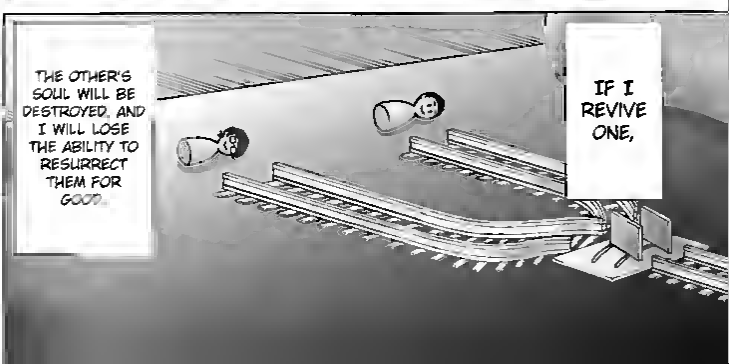
CHAPTER 3 — SWITCH


WHEN I ENTERED MY CLASSROOM ON MY FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL POST-TRANSFERRING,
EVERYONE IN THE CLASS HAD BECOME A CORPSE.
OUT OF LEFT FIELD, SHE INTRODUCED HERSELF AS GOD'S SELF-PROCLAIMED APPRENTICE 'WABIKO', AND CLAIMED THAT MY PREDICAMENT WAS OF MY OWN DOING
AND NOW, THIS GIRL'S GOT ME TRAPPED INTO PLAYING THIS SICK GAME
Rattle
THE HOMEROOM TEACHER — KIMURA YOSHIYUKI AND A LONE STUDENT — YAMAZAKI TASUKU;
I HAVE TO CHOOSE WHICH ONE OF THESE TWO PEOPLE SHOULD BE BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE.


IF I REVIVE ONE,
THE OTHER'S SOUL WILL BE DESTROYED, AND I WILL LOSE THE ABILITY TO RESURRECT THEM FOR GOOD.

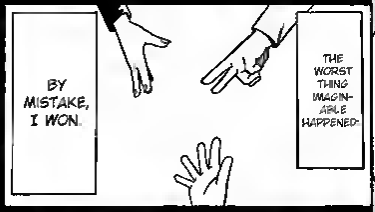
THE TIME LIMIT IS
THE MOMENT THE TIRE REACHES THE POINT WHERE THE RAIL DIVIDES...
ガタッ!!
TH-THERE'S NO WAY THAT
I CAN MAKE A DECISION LIKE THIS...
THEN,
IT'S FINE IF YOU DON'T MAKE A DECISION

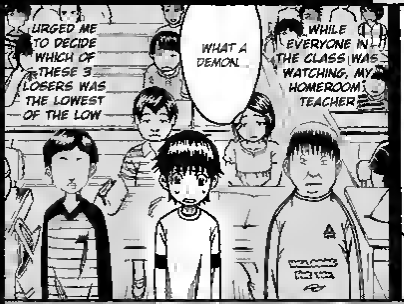
'NOT CHOOSING' IS AN ACCEPTABLE CHOICE THIS TIME.
IN THE END, THE RESULT IS THE SAME AS IF YOU HAD CHOSEN TO HAVE THE TIRE RUN TO THE LEFT.
THE TEACHER'S SOUL WILL BE DESTROYED.
IF CHOOSING ONE WILL KILL THE OTHER WITHOUT A DOUBT...
...THEN I DON'T HAVE A VERY WIDE RANGE OF ALTERNATIVES.
KI!
KI!
IN THAT CASE, IF I HALF-HEARTEDLY SAID 'I WON'T DO ANYTHING',
THE OVERWHELMING BURDEN OF RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE MUCH LIGHTER...
WHAT'S THE POINT OF PUTTING SOMEONE IN A SCENARIO WHERE THEY ARE PROACTIVELY ENCOURAGED...
TO DETERMINE THE OUTCOME OF A LIFE-AND/OR-DEATH SITUATION?
IT'S OK FOR YOU TO SAY 'I CAN'T DECIDE'.

IT'S OK FOR YOU TO SAY 'I CAN'T DECIDE', KURIHARA-KUN
.....WHEN I WAS FORCED TO MAKE A SIMILAR DECISION.
IT'S JUST LIKE THAT DAY IN THIRD GRADE...
ALRIGHT LET'S SET UP THE SEATING ARRANGE-MENTS ON THE BUS FOR THE SCHOOL OUTING
MAKE GROUPS OF 2 WITH SOMEONE YOU LIKE
WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED, COME UP ONE BY ONE AND FILL IN YOUR NAMES ON THE SEATS YOU'D LIKE ON THE BLACKBOARD

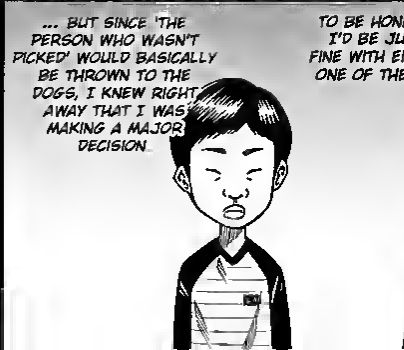
AND THEN...
THEN LET'S HAVE THE 3 OF YOU PLAY ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS, ALRIGHT?

OH!
LOOKS LIKE THERE ARE 3 OF YOU LEFT OVER, HUH?


BY MISTAKE, I WON.
THE WORST THING IMAGINABLE HAPPENED:


URGED ME TO DECIDE WHICH OF THESE 3 LOSERS WAS THE LOWEST OF THE LOW
WHAT A DEMON...
WHILE EVERYONE IN THE CLASS WAS WATCHING, MY HOMEROOM TEACHER

BETWEEN NAKAJIMA-KUN AND NISHINO-KUN, PICK WHO YOU WANT TO BE SEATED WITH
OK THEN, KURIHARA-KUN


... BUT SINCE 'THE PERSON WHO WASN'T PICKED' WOULD BASICALLY BE THROWN TO THE DOGS, I KNEW RIGHT AWAY THAT I WAS MAKING A MAJOR DECISION.
TO BE HONEST, I'D BE JUST FINE WITH EITHER ONE OF THEM...
I DIDN'T HATE NAKAJIMA OR NISHINO, BUT I COULDN'T SAY I WAS FOND OF THEM EITHER.

KURIHARA KUN.
YOU KNOW, IT'S OK FOR YOU TO SAY 'I CAN'T DECIDE'
HURRY UP AND DECIDE!
IN THE END I DIDN'T CHOOSE AT ALL.
AND I WAS DESIGNATED TO SIT IN THE FRONT OF THE BUS WITH THE TEACHER
栗原
芳生
西野
中島
NAKAJIMA AND NISHINO SIT NEXT TO EACH OTHER ON THE BUS,

AND THUS,

THE ONE THROWN TO THE DOGS ENDED UP BEING ME.

I WON'T BE SET FREE FROM THIS TWISTED AFFAIR I'M IN.
EVEN IF I ABANDON THE RIGHT TO DECIDE THIS...
WHAT COSTS AM I UNDERTAKING FROM EACH?
WHETHER I MAKE A DECISION OR LEAVE IT THE WAY IT IS,
THEN I SHOULD TRULY THINK SERIOUSLY ABOUT MY OPTIONS AND WHAT I GIVE UP BY CHOOSING ONE OR THE OTHER.
IF I CAN'T ESCAPE FROM THIS GAME EITHER WAY,
... IS THE SAME AS TRESPASSING INTO HIS FATE.
FLIPPING THE SWITCH...

... THAT I'M ACTING AS IF I'M AN OUTSIDER, UNRELATED TO ALL OF THIS.
LEAVING THE SWITCH ALONE WOULD MEAN...
YOU'LL GET USED TO IT SOON.
THUMP
THUMP
BOTH OPTIONS ARE PRETTY REPREHENSIBLE...
THUMP
THUMP
THUMP
Whoosh
UNTIL THE TIRE REACHES THE DIVIDING POINT...!
THUMP
THUMP
I'VE ONLY GOT A COUPLE SECONDS
THUMP

I'LL GIVE YOU ONE PIECE OF ADVICE.

HE IS A TRANSFER STUDENT TOO.
IF HE'S A TRANSFER STUDENT HE WON'T HAVE MUCH OF A PERSONAL CONNECTION TO ANYONE IN THE CLASSROOM.
SO THE SHOCK THAT HE'LL INEVITABLY GET WHEN HE FINDS OUT THAT EVERYONE AROUND HIM IS DEAD WILL BE MUCH LESS CONSEQUENTIAL

I KNOW I HEARD WHAT YOU SAID BEFORE ABOUT WHY YOU CHOSE TASUKU YAMAZAKI, BUT...

... I KNEW IT ALL ALONG
YOU ONLY SAID THAT AT THE RISK OF SOUNDING DISINGENUOUS.

Roll
Roll
THE TIRE'S ABOUT TO CROSS, YOU KNOW.
WHA—!?
カリ
カリ
SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT SO MUCH.

スウ
RUMI!

SFX: Kuwabiing

ギュルギュルギュル

スウウッ
……
ユラ
ユラ
WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW!?
HIS SOUL HAS VANISHED FROM THIS WORLD
WITH THIS, HE WILL NEVER AGAIN HAVE THE CHANCE OF BEING BROUGHT BACK

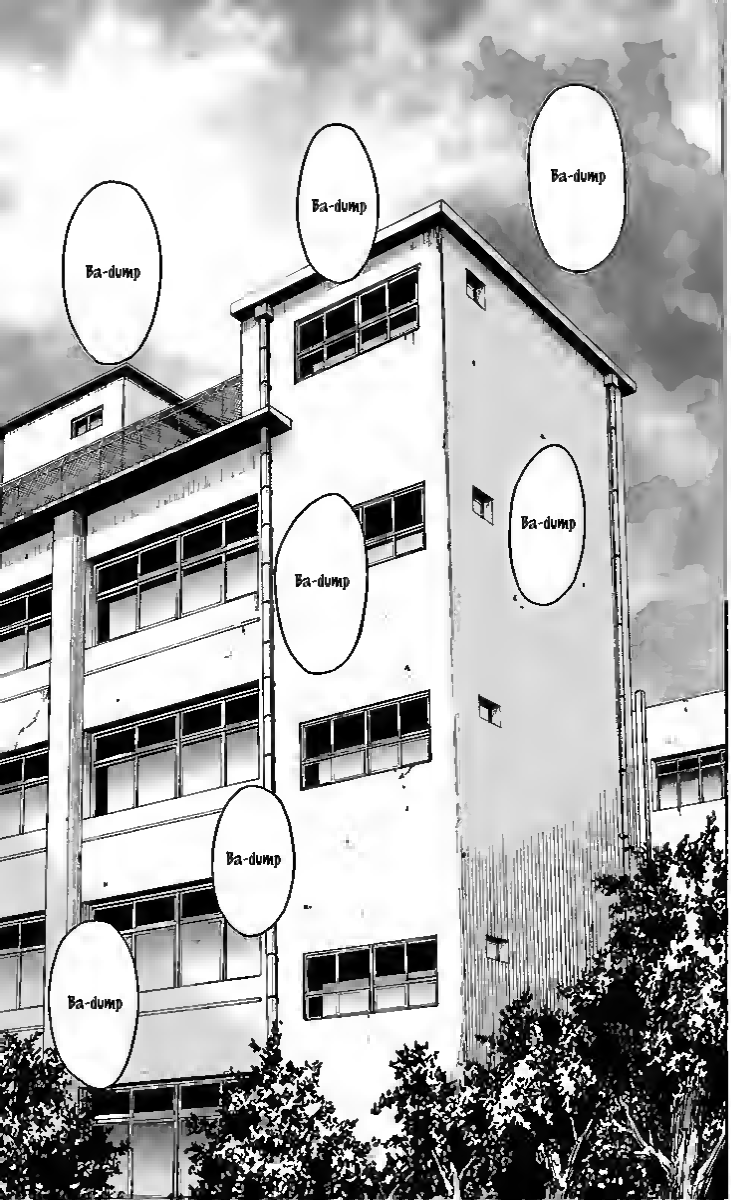
I SEE. IT SEEMS YOU'VE CHOSEN TASUKU YAMAZAKI
LOOKS LIKE IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE DONE
AS IF!
I DIDN'T DECIDE ANYTHING
I MADE NO CHOICE
... BUT...
Bash!

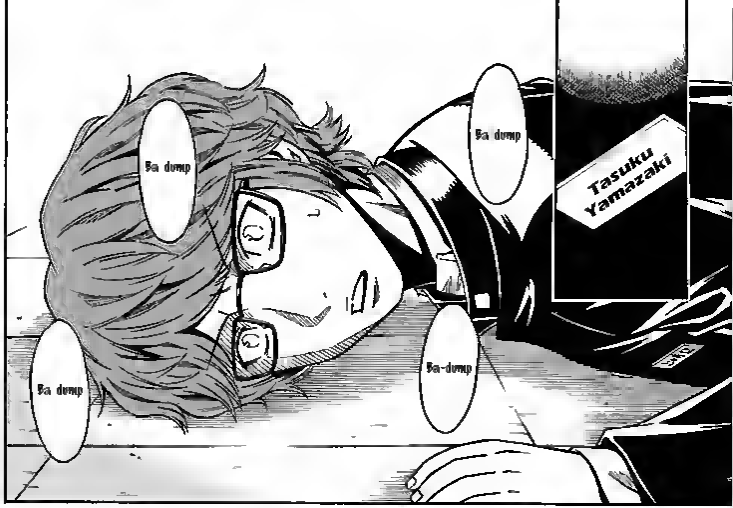
IN MY MIND, I THOUGHT 'I WANT TO REVIVE THE TEACHER', BUT IN THE END, I DIDN'T FLIP THE SWITCH.
IN THAT LAST INSTANT... TAGUKU YAMAZAKI...
JUST LEAVING HIM TO DIE LIKE THAT TWICE IN A ROW WAS...
WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH HIS LIFE HAD BECOME A PLAYTHING, I COULDN'T MOVE...
Click
WELL...
WHEN YOU BOIL IT DOWN, ISN'T IT AT LEAST HALF YOUR DECISION?
ASSUMING THE TRACK WAS SET TO RUN OVER THE OTHER DOLL
YOU'D JUST COME UP WITH SOME OTHER BAD EXCUSE AS TO WHY YOU COULDN'T DECIDE RIGHT?
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY THAT
I CAN'T EVEN DENY WHAT YOU SAID WHEN YOU CALLED MY PREVIOUS REASONING A MERE SOPHISM
I CAN'T COME UP WITH A REAL REASON.

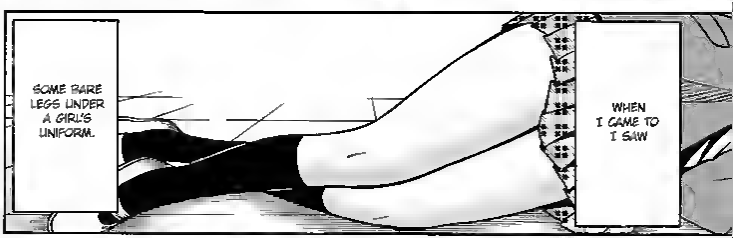
I SELFISHLY THOUGHT THAT 'IF HE'S A TRANSFER STUDENT TOO, MAYBE...'
'... MAYBE WE'LL GET ALONG.'
YOUR SPECULATION ON WHY I PICKED TASUKU YAMAZAKI EARLIER.
YOU'RE SHARP.
YOU WERE CORRECT FROM THE BEGINNING.
IS IT BECAUSE THE TWO OF YOU ARE SIMILAR?
WELL, BETWEEN COMPLETE STRANGERS,
I GUESS REALISTICALLY YOU'LL WANT TO HOPE FOR THE BEST.
スウ
I'M A BIT RELIEVED NOW,
YUZURU.

I'LL BE BACK SOON.
OH, BY THE WAY
FROM THIS POINT ON,
YOU MAY FIND YOURSELF PRAYING A LIFETIME'S WORTH OF PRAYERS LIKE 'I WANT TO LIVE'
JUST KEEP THAT IN MIND.
IN TERMS OF WHAT PEOPLE WOULD WISH FOR...
'I WANT TO LIVE' VS. 'I WANT TO DIE'...
WHICH ONE DO YOU THINK HAPPENS MORE OFTEN?
ALRIGHT SEE YA!
W-WAIT A SEC!!
I JUST WANT TO KNOW ONE THING
WARIKO.

WHY...
WHY ME?
YUZURU.
ALL I WANTED WAS FOR THINGS TO TURN OUT ALRIGHT FOR MYSELF...
REGARDLESS OF WHAT HAPPENS TO EVERYONE ELSE.
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD BE A LITTLE MORE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU.
Slam!


Ba-dump
Ba-dump
Ba-dump
Ba-dump
Ba-dump
Ba-dump
Ba-dump


Ba dump
Ba dump
Ba dump
Ba-dump
Tasuku Yamazaki


SOME RARE LEGS UNDER A GIRL'S UNIFORM.
WHEN I CAME TO I SAW

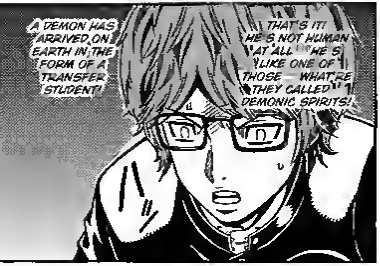
I GOT PRETTY OVERWHELMED BY THE SURREAL FEELING OF SEEING A FEMALE CLASSMATE'S THIGHS THIS CLOSE FOR THE FIRST TIME...
BUT BEFORE I COULD ASK MYSELF THESE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS...
WHOSE LEGS ARE THESE ANYWAY?
WHY... AND FOR HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN LYING HERE?

I CAN SEE THE FAINT OUTLINE OF SOME FINE HAIRS...
THAT MUST BE STUBBLE FROM SHAVING!
.....
WHA—!
IS SHE COLD-BLOODED!?
THERE'S NO WAY
SHE'S SO COLD IT'S AS IF SHE'S A CORPSE
IN ESSENCE THIS HAS GOT TO BE...
SHE'S FREEZING COLD!
HE.
HEY—.
Tighten

COULD IT BE... ASIDE FROM ME, EVERYONE ELSE IN THE CLASS IS DEA-...
REGARDLESS OF WHAT ANGLE YOU COME AT THIS, THIS IS SERIOUS!
THIS MUST BE...
ゆらっ
びくっ
Clank

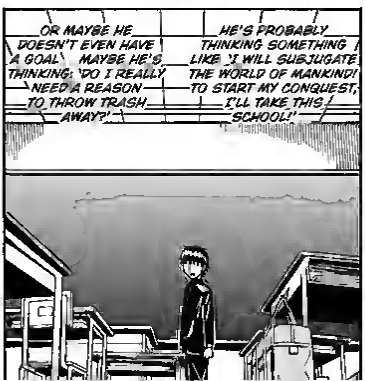
TRY AND REMEMBER! WHAT HAPPENED TODAY!?
I DON'T REMEMBER HIM BEING IN THIS CLASS!
WH-WHO IS THAT GUY!?
I HEARD THAT THERE WAS A STUDENT TRANSFERRING IN DURING HOMEROOM
ALRIGHT COME ON IN.
TODAY I'LL BE INTRODUCING YOU GUYS TO A TRANSFER STUDENT.
I THINK HE MIGHT HAVE JUST LOOKED OVER HERE...
80
BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING AFTER THAT
.....
THE ROOT CAUSE OF THIS SCENARIO I'M IN IS PRETTY LIKELY TO BE RELATED TO HIM IN SOME WAY.
AND IN THAT CASE,
ESSENTIALLY, HE'S THE TRANSFER STUDENT.
I GET IT NOW... I UNDERSTAND WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT.

THIS BASTARD KILLED EVERY LAST PERSON IN HERE.
I'M NOT SURE HOW, BUT THE MOMENT HE ENTERED THE CLASSROOM,


A DEMON HAS ARRIVED ON EARTH IN THE FORM OF A TRANSFER STUDENT!
THAT'S IT! HE'S NOT HUMAN AT ALL. HE'S LIKE ONE OF THOSE WHAT'RE THEY CALLED? DEMONIC SPIRITS!

WHO THE HELL IS THIS GUY ?
I CAN'T THINK OF ANY OTHER POSSIBILITY.
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS, HUH?

WH-... OH SHIT, WAIT A SECOND...
OR: 'SEALED WITHIN THIS VESSEL, THE POWER OF THE DEMON WORLD WITHIN MY BLOOD WILL ARISE AND BURST FORTH'... HUH?


OR MAYBE HE DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A GOAL. MAYBE HE'S THINKING: 'DO I REALLY NEED A REASON TO THROW TRASH AWAY?'
HE'S PROBABLY THINKING SOMETHING LIKE 'I WILL SUBJUGATE THE WORLD OF MANKIND! TO START MY CONQUEST, I'LL TAKE THIS SCHOOL!'

WHOA, HE LOOKS FREAKY!
SHIT, HE'S COMING THIS WAY!! DUMBASS, STAY AWAY FROM ME!!
AT THIS RATE, I'M JUST GOING TO GET KILLED BY THIS MONSTER...
NOT GOOD!
NO WAY. HE'LL DEFINITELY SEE RIGHT THROUGH THAT
PLAY DEAD?
WHAT DO I DO?
Clap
WELL IF IT'S COME TO THIS...
Clap
Clap
Clap
Clap
Clap

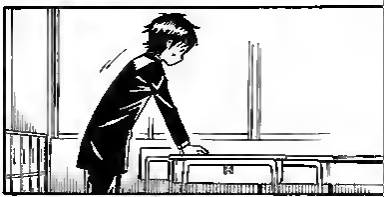
Clap
Clap
Clap
Clap
IT'S TIME TO BLUFF!
TRULY SPLENDID
MAGNIFICENT
IT ALL MAKES SENSE NOW
I GET IT
YEAH, YEAH.
I'LL TRICK HIM INTO THINKING I'M THE 'MYSTERIOUS MASTERMIND WHO ALREADY UNDERSTANDS EVERYTHING' CHARACTER TYPE
MY ONLY TACTIC LEFT IS TO LOOK FOR A GOOD CHANCE TO RUN!!

ALL OF THE STUDENTS IN THIS ROOM, THEY WOULDN'T HAPPEN... TO BE...
BUT, UH, THERE'S ONE THING I WANT TO BE SURE OF
WELL ER MOST OF IT ANYWAY

OH!
LOOKS LIKE I STARTLED HIM
.....

DEA...
D...

THEY'RE DEAD.
Y-YEAH



IT WASN'T ME!!
HOW COME?

S-SERIOUSLY!?
I... I SEE...
SO YOU...
DID THE HONORS, RIGHT...?

OKAY, THEN WHO DID IT?
UMM. DON'T TELL ME...
YOU STILL DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?
WAIT!!
UMM.
HAVE YOU LOOKED UP YET?
UP?

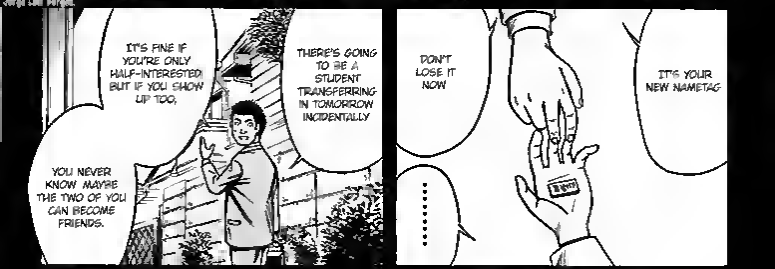
I KNEW THAT GUY WAS A DEMON!
WAHH... THAT WAS INSANE!
WHA—?
SORRY, I THINK I FORGOT SOMETHING!
...NO, I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY PLACE IN THE SCHOOL WITH A SOLUTION TO THIS KIND OF A PROBLEM.
ANYWAYS, RIGHT NOW, SHOULD I GO TO THE STAFF ROOM?
LOOKS LIKE THE OTHER CLASSES ARE UNTOUCHED...

FOR THE TIME BEING, I'LL JUST HAVE TO KEEP RUNNING...
WAI—
WAIT UP!!
WHOA!
I KNEW IT, HE'S BEEN FOLLOWING ME!
WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME!?
RIGHT BACK AT YOU!!
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING!?

ARE YOU AN IDIOT!?
SH-SHUT UP!
I I KNEW IT! YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING!
AT LEAST HEAR ME OUT!
OF COURSE YOU'RE GOING TO RUN!!
IF THE MONSTER THAT PROBABLY KILLED EVERYONE IN YOUR CLASS IS CHASING YOU,
I JUST GOT DRAGGED INTO SOMETHING UNBELIEVABLE!
IN INSANE
MAYBE I SHOULD COME TO SCHOOL MORE OFTEN...
Smirk

I HAVE SOMETHING I WANTED TO GIVE YOU
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO COME OUT ALL THIS WAY JUST TO TELL ME THAT.
WELL, I'LL GO IF I FEEL LIKE IT. BUT
WHY DON'T YOU COME TO SCHOOL TOMORROW?
TAKUKU
伝奇集
J.L.ボルヘス作
パターン
SOMETHING TO GIVE ME?

Q&A: The book he's reading is *Ficciones*, the most popular anthology of short stories by the Argentinean writer, Jorge Luis Borges.


IT'S FINE IF YOU'RE ONLY HALF-INTERESTED BUT IF YOU SHOW UP TOO,
THERE'S GOING TO BE A STUDENT TRANSFERRING IN TOMORROW INCIDENTALLY
YOU NEVER KNOW MAYBE THE TWO OF YOU CAN BECOME FRIENDS.
DON'T LOSE IT NOW
IT'S YOUR NEW NAMETAG
.....

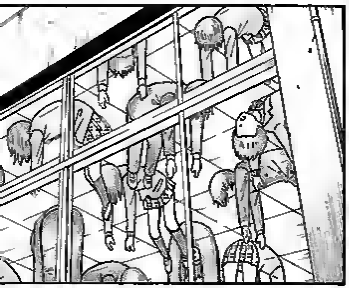
Huff
Huff
NO! YOU'RE WRONG!
BETTER YET WHY THE HECK ARE YOU SMILING!?
Flash
I DIDN'T THINK THE DEVIL INCARNATE WOULD BE SHOWING UP!
I ADMIT, YOU DEFINITELY CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD!
Flash
Huff
Flash
Pant
Huff
Pant
Pant

WH—
HUH?
Pant
Haah
Huff
Haah
Huff
HE'S GOT
NO STAMINA!!
Pant
Huff
THIS GUY,
HE'S...
Pant
Pant
Pant
Haah

Haah
Haah
Pant
Pant
Haah
Pant
Huff
Huff
Huff
D...
Pant
Pant
Haah
DAMN IT!
Haah
Pant
Pant

I'D BE RUNNING TOO.

I GUESS IT'S ONLY NATURAL... IF I CAME TO IN THE MIDDLE OF A MOUNTAIN OF CORPSES AND SUDDENLY SOME STRANGER STANDS UP IN THE MIDST OF THEM,



WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO ME IF I SAY THAT?

'BECAUSE I WISHED FOR IT, EVERYONE DIED...'?

HOW AM I GOING TO EXPLAIN THIS?

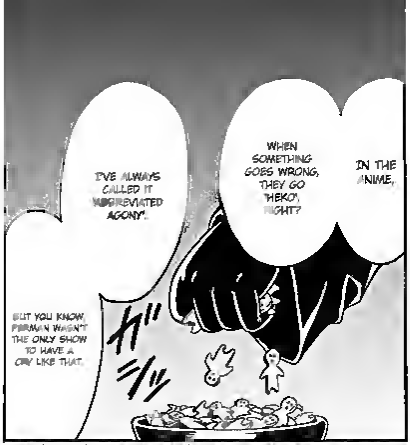
BUT SOON, SOMEONE'S GOING TO NOTICE, AND IT'LL CAUSE A PANIC.

THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING BACK TO THAT ROOM...

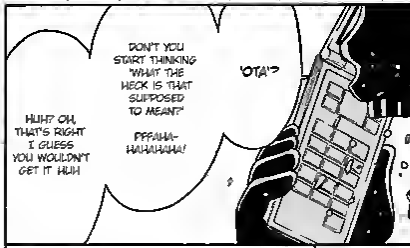
ガーン
ハッ
WHO'S GOING TO TRUST ME...?
HEY, TRANSFER STUDENT!

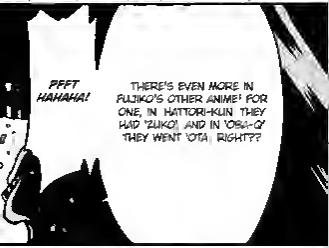
HURRY UP AND SPIT IT OUT
I'LL LISTEN TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY
IF I JUDGE YOU RATIONALLY
I DON'T SEE ANYTHING BUT A NORMAL JUNIOR HIGH-SCHOOL-STUDENT

AH, YEAH, YEAH!
ボ
ボ
ボ


I'VE ALWAYS CALLED IT 'ABBREVIATED AGONY'.
WHEN SOMETHING GOES WRONG, THEY GO 'HEKO', RIGHT?
IN THE ANIME,
BUT YOU KNOW, PERMAN WASN'T THE ONLY SHOW TO HAVE A CRY LIKE THAT.
ガシッ

T/N: Referring to the manga/anime series 'Perman' by Fujiko Fujio, created somewhat as a parody of Superman. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Perman (manga).


HUH? OH, THAT'S RIGHT I GUESS YOU WOULDN'T GET IT. HUH
DON'T YOU START THINKING 'WHAT THE HECK IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?'
PPFAHA-HAHAHAHA!
'OTA'?



(See T/N on next page)

Page 44 Translation Notes

In ref. to "in 'Hattori-kun' they had 'Zuko', and in 'Oba-Q' they went 'Ota'":

Again, referring to abbreviated names of Fujiko Fujio's other anime Ninja Hattori-kun commonly known as Ninja Hattori outside of Japan, and Obake no Q-tarou, or Q-tarou the Ghost, respectively.

https //en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ninja_Hattori-kun
https //en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Obake_no_Q-tar%C5%8D

In ref. to "'Abbreviated Agony'"

The line that is being used here in the original is小さな断末魔, which when translated piece by piece means something like 'a brief cry of agony in the wake of death'. Due to the anime he seems to have correlated the idea with being largely children's manga/anime, it's very unlikely that these cries he refers to are actually as dire and strenuous as the name he has come up for it implies. However, these types of phrases seem to be a recurring thing, so I came up with an alliterative phrase similar to 'Pick your poison' to follow the trend.

So, we have a Discord now...

The link to the public channel is https://discord.gg/9kTthjW

No, this doesn't mean we'll be letting go of our IRC at webchat.irchighway.net/?channels=deathtoll

And no, it doesn't mean we'll be letting go of our website at deathtollscans.net. All releases will continue happening there. The Discord is mostly a way to speed up our internal communication, and maybe get to know new people interested in scanlation.

(If you are thinking of joining us via Discord, okay, we can talk and give you a test over there, but if you're accepted, we'll require you to register in the website nonetheless, and to put your output there. Sorry, but half the team don't use instant messenger services of any kind, including some of our most skilled and reliable members, and we won't let go of the site as it's been our rock-solid base of operations for years. And I won't be a go-between posting output given to me in Discord into the forums for the next step in the scanlation pipeline. You'll still have to use the forums even if only for 30 seconds when you post your work.)

Recruiting a typesetter...

Well, we still need a typesetter for ***Cutie Mutie***.

(Test: `https://goo.gl/vQuPZA`).

Applicants should bundle their application in a compressed folder, upload it to a cloud service that doesn't expire, and either post the link in our site (deathtollscans.net) in the Join Us section, appropriate subsection; or send it to me (Wraith at Death Toll, Kendama at Batoto) as a PM.

...but also inviting translators!

We need a translator for a moe series, ***Alice or Alice***. But other than that, we want more translators to join us and start new projects.

Last time, I made a list of stuff we definitely wanted to do and ended up picking up most of them. This time, though, I'll make a looser list based on stuff that is stalled or upon which we've stumbled in recent months. If you are a translator and would like to help out, I can only promise to make a bait chapter initially, and use it to fish for editors. That's why this is an invitation, not a recruitment. *If you have your own ideas of what you'd like to do, we're open to those, too.*

- ***Again!!*** (seinen, supernatural, school life)
- ***Diamond Cut Diamond*** (shounen, supernatural)
- ***Ragna Crimson*** (shounen, fantasy)
- ***Lucifer's Right Hand*** (seinen, medical)
- ***Primeval taiga*** (seinen, Mori Kouji nonsense)
- ***The small plaza*** (we have no idea, but some random person gave us raws; one-volume collection of stories. In Japanese, *Chiisana hiroba*)
- ***Desire Devil*** (first serialisation of Mitabi Irohara, author of the famous one-shot, ***Sex Manga***; no idea what it is about)

The list will be very fluid in future versions of this ad, and may change according to our whim or mood. At least, until we lock on something.

Our translation test: `https://i.imgur.com/blqk3D8.png`

The Internet, October 23, 2017,

Wraith
Death Toll Scanlations

DEATH TOLL

SHOUNEN Y

TRANSLATION: RINGO
CLEANS: LAYLAY
PROOF: MAHA9392
TYPESET: ASHRA
REDRAWS: LOSIAN
QUALITY CHECK: WRAITH